

the years. And that's integrity. A lot of people in this town aspire to be called people of integrity. But along the way there may be a slip here, or a fudge there, and pretty soon, they're compromised and just don't measure up. There's never been a minute in Billy's career when he didn't measure up.

When we walk out the door of whatever business we're in for the last time, all we take with us is our name. Billy Higgins today takes with him his good name—followed by well done, good and faithful servant.

He is truly one of the good guys. He's also one of the most dedicated family men around this town, and it's so good to see his family here this evening. I know how important family is to Billy. I even ran into him a few summers ago on the Outer Banks where he and Nancy and all the kids and grandkids have a tradition of spending vacation time together each year.

And I also know how important faith is to Billy. I have a quotation on my office wall from Dr. James Dobson, which I'd like to share with you because I believe it could very well describe Billy:

"I have concluded that the accumulation of wealth, even if I could achieve it, is an insufficient reason for living. When I reach the end of my days, a moment or two from now, I must look backward on something more meaningful than the pursuit of houses and land and machines and stocks and bonds. Nor is fame of any lasting benefit. I will consider my earthly existence to have been wasted unless I can recall a loving family, a consistent investment in the lives of people, and an earnest attempt to serve the God who made me. Nothing else makes much sense."

That's Billy's legacy.

Billy, I am grateful that our paths in life crossed and have run together for so many years, and I am proud to call you my friend. God bless you.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 1999*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, on roll call numbers 167–169, I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on each of them. At the time of the votes, I was proudly attending a ceremony in honor of my wife, Camille Spinello Andrews.

In addition to her tireless dedication as the mother of our two children, Jacquelyn and Josie, Camille serves as the Associate Dean of Enrollment and Projects for Rutgers University School of Law-Camden Campus. Her work in this capacity is well-regarded both by her colleagues and throughout the New Jersey legal community.

On June 7, her excellent work was publicly recognized in a ceremony in which she was awarded the Alfred C. Clapp Distinguished Service Award. Presented by the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education, this award is an expression of appreciation to legal professionals whose voluntary service has significantly contributed to the field of continuing legal education.

At this ceremony, I was proud to honor Camille with a Congressional Commendation. Proclaiming June 7, 1999 to be Camille Spinello Andrews Day throughout the First Congressional District of New Jersey, this commendation is a small token of the great respect I have for Camille's work. Her service to our community deserves the thanks and gratitude of us all. I am fortunate to love and receive the love of such a special woman.

Balancing the dual responsibilities of public service and family life is always a challenging task. I thank my constituents for their understanding and appreciate the strong support they have given to me and my family.

#### HONORING CARMEN DIAZ FOR HER LIFETIME DEDICATION TO THE COMMUNITY

#### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 1999*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Carmen Diaz for her years of leadership and contribution to the communities of the 12th Congressional District.

In 1953 Ms. Diaz came to the United States to fulfill her dream of creating a better life for herself and her family. She began by working hard for \$42 a week as a machine operator in a woman's garment factory. She saved money, and was diligent and with great determination, in 1955 she was able to send for her children in Puerto Rico. With herself and two children to feed she continued to toil. She ensured the children were healthy and that they received an education.

She also took time to further her own education, making the effort to become a bilingual teacher. Once she received her degree, she began teaching bilingual education which she did for eight years.

During this time she became active in the community, working for Community Board 1. She was able to use her experience, education and determination to help other people in the community. Wanting to do more, striving to succeed, she enrolled in Boricua College in Brooklyn. With the same kind of dedication and effort that made her a success, she was able to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. With that accomplishment, she engaged in increased community work as a social worker.

From that point on, she remained deeply committed to civil service, working hard to help people throughout Brooklyn. She played a key role in many organizations including the Los Sures Senior Center and later in the Diana Jones Senior Center.

She did this kind of work until last year when she became ill and was unable to continue working. Despite the fact that she can no longer work, she still has an impact on our community. The work she does still helps people, but more importantly, she stands as a role model to thousands of people. She truly embodies the American Dream. She is a great woman and a great American, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her.

#### A TRIBUTE TO HONOR OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF TECUMSEH

#### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 1999*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on June 25, 1999 the city of Tecumseh will celebrate its 175th anniversary. Tecumseh has a long and rich history dating back to 1824, when Musgrove Evans, Joseph Brown and Austin Wing founded the town making Tecumseh one of the first three settlements in the Michigan Territory along with Detroit and Monroe.

Tecumseh shares its unique name with the Shawnee Chief Tecumseh, who used the site as a meeting place for local Indian tribes and war councils in his effort to form a unified Indian nation.

The residents of Tecumseh have always been civic-minded and concerned with the conditions of their fellow man. Prior to the Civil War Tecumseh, along with several other communities in Lenawee County, was a common transit point for slaves seeking freedom along with the Underground Railroad.

While maintaining its distinctive small town atmosphere and agricultural roots, Tecumseh has been home to a multi-national Fortune 500 company, Tecumseh Products Inc., since 1934.

It is a testament to the perseverance and faith of her residents that Tecumseh has prospered for so long. I am proud of the city of Tecumseh and what its residents have accomplished over the last 175 years and I wish them another successful 175 years. I am proud to represent Tecumseh and offer them my heartfelt congratulations on this truly remarkable milestone.

#### VICRYL SUTURES

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 24, 1999*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on May 20 of this year I commented on the 1994 recall of Vicryl sutures produced by the Ethicon Corporation. In my comments, I noted that according to FDA records, only 2% of the sutures were recovered in the recall. The numbers given to me by the FDA were incorrect. In fact, approximately 25% of the sutures were recovered in the recall. I include a letter from Melinda K. Plaisier, Interim Associated Commissioner for Legislative Affairs, describing the cause of the error and the correct facts.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,  
Rockville, MD, May 28, 1999.

Hon. PETE STARK,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. STARK: In the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) May 18, 1999 letter of response to your April 19, 1999 letter regarding the distribution and recall of Vicryl sutures manufactured by Ethicon, Inc., there was a mistake. This letter is intended to correct that mistake. A response has also been